

Draft Faculty Letter by Woodstock Union High School – PLP Philosophy

Dear Faculty,

We want to write you to share our philosophy of personalized learning, and some general details regarding the work of implementing a Personalized Learning Plan process. PLP means Personalized Learning Plans. As we develop these at Woodstock Union High School we will provide students the opportunity to reflect upon their learning and their future. Implementing a PLP process will enable the adults in the school to better understand each student as a unique person with both common and different learning goals with a variety of learning strengths and concerns.

The PLP should be seen as a living document that can change as students' needs and ideas change. It is important to realize we are already providing personalized learning, and our work forward is to connect this with their goals and vision for the future. Here are specific examples of our current programs.

- **Independent Studies** - this past year a student was physical education assistant, another advanced computer science student helped in an introductory computer science. A faculty member sponsors this to build the student and teacher expectations, and the new learning and the student gets credit.
- **Senior Concentration**- a faculty member becomes a mentor as a student develops a project, the project is outside the building. For example a student completed work at the Woodstock Historical Studies. The mentor helps with process and the student receives credit.
- **Clubs and sports**- students are able to choose and create their own club for example the Med Club -- for students who are interested in medical careers, they raised money and invited speakers.
- **In class projects** in 9th grade the English students completed a mini capstone and researched and took action, in another class, students created their own Moth Radio Hour telling personalized stories. In the middle school students create "This I believe" Statements. IDEA class- innovation, design, engineering and architecture class students develop their own projects.
- **Individual Classes**: Students develop an advanced class based on their interest in photography. This is supervised by a faculty member.
- **Partnerships**: We have a strong partnership with the Marsh Billings Rockefeller National Park, students are involved with work there including French students leading tours of the mansion in French, geometry students working with the forestry program, trail work and much more.
- **Careers Futures** project with the 8th grade- career awareness, research components, career panels, students visit college campuses, awareness of post-secondary opportunities.
- **Career Exploration**: work experience and on the job skill development for individual learners.
- **SWEP**: Supervised Work Experience Program- students get on the job experiences.

- **Options Program**- alternative academic program driven by the curriculum, personalized instruction

We are off to a great start! These seemingly disparate programs that our youth do every day, all year long, at WUHS, can be leveraged and fold in with our development of PLPs. Personalized learning plans will take all we already do and merge it with the creation of a structure that makes individual learning intentional and deliberate.

As we move forward our next steps to make a seamless transition to all student PLPs at Woodstock include:

1. **PLP expectations for each grade level**- this summer we created a document that has the grade level advisory program with the touch points in the PLP process
2. **Teacher Leadership**-we will have an individual leading monthly strategic meetings to develop PLPs, this person is a leader, liaison and contact person.
3. **Faculty meetings** throughout the year at monthly meetings we will receive regular feedback and updates.
4. **Monthly advisors meeting**- this will be hands on logistical meetings about advisory imbedded in grade level teams during the teaching day.
5. **Inservice days** we will provide training on advisory, PLP and assessment strategies

This work is inspiring and huge and will make a significant impact on the lives of our children and their futures. Please provide us suggestions and ideas as we move forward with our Implementation Plan. Thank you for your continued commitment to the students at Woodstock Union High School.

Sincerely,

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PLP Implementation Planning Team.